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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

(Situation Report as of 1600)

2. President Torres retains firm control of the capital city of La Paz, however, as well as the

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important mining cities of Oruro and Potosi. The failure of the military and civilian plotters to move quickly in La Paz has given the Torres government time to organize the generally leftist student and labor sectors. A major pro-Torres demonstration was being organized for the afternoon and statements of "imperialist" and "CIA" involvement in the coup attempt has made US Government installations probable targets for the demonstrators.

3. The loyalty of the key military units in the La Paz area is one of the major determining factors in the final outcome in this contest for power. The plotters had made intensive efforts to line up the units in La Paz, but so far reports indicate that they are remaining loyal to Torres, or at least neutral. The latest embassy sitrep states that there are rumors that the motorized regiments stationed outside La Paz are beginning to move on the city, but there are conflicting reports as to which side they belong to. The large number of interior units that have apparently joined the rebels, including the important Cochabamba division and ranger unit, may influence many of the commanders to side with the rebels to maintain military unity and hopefully to be on the winning side. On the other hand, large numbers of workers and miners are solidly backing Torres, and there is evidence that they are being armed. The high possibility of bloodshed in the streets of La Paz if the military units move against the government will probably have a strong deterrent effect on units now re-evaluating their positions.

4. Thus, while the situation remains unclear, the two sides appear to be relatively evenly matched in terms of military strength at the present time, and a strong possibility of bloodshed exists should the rebels move on the capital. Rumors reaching the US Embassy indicate that the plotters, who have remained quiet in La Paz thus far, are now planning to make their move tonight. The eventual outcome remains in doubt.

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